

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are presented below for ease of reference only. No amendments have been made.

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting call bridging to a third party during a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party, comprising:

detecting tones arising during the telephone connection between the calling party and the called party;

comparing the detected tones to predetermined ring tones to determine if the detected tones are ring tones, wherein ring tones arising during the telephone connection indicate an attempt by the called party to bridge the telephone connection to include the third party; and

executing call-bridging prevention instructions if the detected tones are ring tones.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

terminating the telephone connection.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

inserting a warning message into the telephone connection.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

recording a telephone number of the third party.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

blocking further telephone connections between the calling party and the called party.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

comparing a telephone number of the third party against a list of authorized called parties; and

terminating the telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on the list of authorized called parties.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

terminating the telephone connection;

blocking further telephone connections between the calling party and the called party.

59. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling institutional communications,

comprising:

recording a conversation on telephone connection between a regulated calling party and a called party, the regulated calling party residing in an institution;

detecting tones arising during the telephone connection;

comparing the tones to a predetermined call-bridging tone set to identify an attempt to bridge the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party to include a third party, wherein the call-bridging tone set includes at least one of dial tones, busy signal tones, ring signal tones, dual tone multi-frequency (“DTMF”) tones, and special instruction tones (“SIT”); and

executing call-bridging prevention instructions in response to an identified call-bridging attempt based upon comparing the tones to the predetermined call bridging tone set.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

terminating the telephone connection.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

inserting a warning message into the telephone connection.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

recording a telephone number of the third party.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

blocking further calls between the regulated calling party and the called party.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

comparing a telephone number of the third party against a list of authorized called parties; and

terminating the telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on the list of authorized called parties.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

receiving a voice sample from the regulated calling party before establishing the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party;

comparing the voice sample to a digitized representation of the regulating calling party's voice to verify that the voice sample matches the digitized representation; and

establishing the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party if the voice sample matches the digitized representation.

66. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for detecting a call bridge to a third party during a telephone connection between a regulated calling party and a called party, comprising:

a tone monitor configured to monitor a first telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party, wherein the tone monitor is responsive to the occurrence of ring tones in the first telephone connection and wherein ring tones are indicative of an attempt by the called party to bridge the first telephone connection to a second telephone connection between the called party and the third party; and

a call handler, activated by the tone monitor, configured to prevent call bridging of the first telephone connection with the second telephone connection by executing call-bridging prevention instructions.

67. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, terminates the first telephone connection between the calling party and the called party.

68. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, introduces a warning message into the first telephone connection.

69. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-

bridging instructions, records a telephone number of the third party.

70. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, disconnects the first telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on a list of authorized called parties.

71. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

blocking further calls between the regulated calling party and the called party.

72. (Previously Presented) A call management system, comprising:

a management unit arranged to record a conversation on a telephone connection between a regulated calling party residing in an institution and a called party, wherein the management unit is further arranged to detect tones arising during the telephone connection; and

a computer control unit arranged to compare the tones to a predetermined call-bridging tone set to identify an attempt to bridge the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party to include a third party, wherein the call-bridging tone set includes at least one of dial tones, busy signal tones, ring signal tones, dual tone multi-frequency (“DTMF”) tones, and special instruction tones (“SIT”), and wherein the computer control unit is arranged to execute call-bridging prevention instructions in response to an identified call-bridging attempt based upon the comparison.

73. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the call-bridging prevention instructions comprise instructions configured to:
- terminate the telephone connection.
74. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the call-bridging prevention instructions comprise instructions configured to:
- insert a warning message into the telephone connection.
75. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the call-bridging prevention instructions comprise instructions configured to:
- record a telephone number of the third party.
76. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the call-bridging prevention instructions comprise instructions configured to:
- block further calls between the regulated calling party and the called party.
77. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the call-bridging prevention instructions comprise instructions configured to:
- compare a telephone number of the third party against a list of authorized called parties; and
- terminate the telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on the list of authorized called parties.

78. (Previously Presented) The call management system of claim 72, wherein the computer control unit is further arranged to:

receive from the management unit a voice sample from the regulated calling party
before allowing the management unit to establish the telephone connection
between the regulated calling party and the called party;

compare the voice sample to a digitized representation of the regulating calling
party's voice to verify that the voice sample matches the digitized
representation; and

instruct the management unit to establish the telephone connection between the
regulated calling party and the called party if the voice sample matches the
digitized representation.